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AUTHORITY

QUASAR™

FOR A FISTFUL OF QUASAR!™

AVENGERS® ASSEMBLE!

30TH™

30 YEARS
1963-1993

WENDELL VAUGHN. . . THE FIRST EARTH MAN EVER APPOINTED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. BONDED TO THE ENERGY-TRANSFORMING QUANTUM-BANDS THAT ARE BOTH WEAPONS AND SYMBOLS OF HIS STATION, HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE TO DEFEND ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE FROM COSMIC EVIL!

Stan Lee presents

QUASAR

EARTH. SOMEWHERE IN NORTH CAROLINA.
OH, GREAT.
THAT DEGENERATE QUAGMIRE DISAPPEARS... AND SUDDENLY THIS ANTIBODY CREATURE HE SEEMED TO HAVE A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH GROWS TO THE SIZE OF A HOUSE!

BATTLEGROUND EARTH

MARK GRUENWALD WRITER / GRANT MIEHM GUEST ARTIST / DAVID & DAN DAY / RICK PARKER LETTERER / PAUL BECTON COLORIST / MIKE ROCKWITZ EDITOR / RALF MACCHIO GROUP EDITOR / TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

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NOT ABOUT TO LET HIM SMACK ME.

BLASTED NEW YORKERS! WHY CAN'T THEY JUST KEEP THESE SUPER-TYPES TO THEMSELVES?

I MAY NOT HAVE MY QUANTUM-BANDS ANYMORE,* BUT THIS STARBRAND TATTOO GIVES ME A FEW REASONABLY COOL ATTRIBUTES.

RUN! WHILE WE CAN!

NEVER EAT HERE AGAIN!

AAIIIIEEE!

McBurgers

McBurgers RESTAURANTS NUMBER OF ZILLIONS SERVED 600

* DURING THE INFINITY WAR, QUASAR'S EXISTENCE WAS TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED AND HE LOST HIS "IMMOVABLE" QUANTUM-BANDS AT THAT TIME.
--MOVABLE MIKE

NOT ONLY CAN I FLY, BUT I'M STRONGER THAN A MULE TEAM. LET ME SEE IF I CAN USE THAT POWER TO KNOCK THE FIGHT OUT OF MISTER BIG BRITCHES!

SP ODM

WHOA! I-I WENT THROUGH HIM! I EXPECTED HIM TO BE-- SOLID!

WHAT IN--? THE HOLE'S CLOSING UP AND THE CHUNK OF BLACK GUNK I PUNCHED OUT IS TAKING HUMAN FORM!

THIS IS NOT GOOD. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO SUBDUE THE GIANT IF EVERY POKE I TAKE AT HIM RESULTS IN A CLONE?

A CLONE THAT SEEMS TO SHARE THE SAME GENERAL HOSTILITY THE OVERSIZED ORIGINAL DOES!

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, BUDDY?

IF NOT FOR ME, YOU'D STILL BE PART OF YOUR BIG BROTHER!

SKRUNCH

IN THE REALM OF POTENTIAL ENERGY CALLED THE QUANTUM ZONE...

... A LONE FIGURE MARS THE PRISTINE EMPTINESS OF NON-SPACE.

HIS NAME IS SERGEI KRYLOV, THOUGH HE REFERS TO HIMSELF BY THE TITLE, THE PRESENCE. BY WHATEVER NAME, HE IS AN EXCEEDINGLY UNHAPPY MAN.

FOR MONTHS NOW HE HAS BEEN SUSPENDED IN THIS FEATURELESS VOID, HAVING BEEN EXILED THERE BY QUASAR AFTER ATTACKING QUASAR'S NOW-DECEASED MENTOR, EON.*

A RUSSIAN MUTANT WHO LIVES ON RADIOACTIVE DECAY, KRYLOV IS NOT BOTHERED BY THE LACK OF FOOD, WATER OR AIR. IT IS MERELY BOREDOM THAT THREATENS HIS WELL-BEING.

HE LIES IN WAIT, HOPING TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF QUASAR WHEN HE PASSES THROUGH THE REALM IN A SPACE-WARPING QUANTUM JUMP.

HE HAS YET TO SEE HIM. THE PROBLEM IS QUASAR NEVER REMAINS LONG ENOUGH IN THE ZONE FOR KRYLOV TO LOCATE.

BUT NOW AT LAST HE SEES SOMETHING... A SPECK OF COLOR VIOLATING THE WHITENESS.

AS QUICKLY AS HE KNOWS HOW, HE PROPELS HIMSELF TOWARD IT.

A HAND! HUMANOID... SEVERED?

NO... IT SEEMS TO BE SURROUNDED BY A NIMBUS OF ENERGY!

IT IS NOT QUASAR'S HAND. I DO NOT SEE HIS DISTINCTIVE BRACELETS!

THIS MAY BE THE EXIT FROM THIS CONTEMPTIBLE DIMENSION I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR ALL THIS TIME!

I WILL PULL THIS HAND THROUGH THE NIMBUS!

EHHHHHH! IT IS PULLING BACK!

* WAAAY BACK IN ISSUE #20.--MEMORABLE MIKE

MMMMMPFH!

I--AM--FREE!

YOU ARE NOT QUASAR!

WHO ARE YOU?

I AM NEUTRON, FOURTH LIEUTENANT IN HER MAJESTRIX LILANDRA'S IMPERIAL GUARD OF THE GHI'AR IMPERIUM. ARE YOU KREE, EARTHLING, OR OTHERWISE?

I AM OF EARTH, THOUGH MY ALLEGIANCE IS TO NO NATION OR INIVIDUAL THEREUPON. YOU SPOKE THE NAME QUASAR. WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF HIM?

IT IS QUASAR WHO TELE-PORTED ME HERE AND ABANDONED ME DURING PERSONAL COMBAT.* I MANAGED TO THRUST MY ARM INTO THE SPACE WARP-HOLE HE RETREATED INTO.

YOU KNOW OF HIM, TOO?

*QUASAR #33. --MIKE AGAIN

IT IS QUASAR WHO ABANDONED ME IN THE DIMENSION INTO WHICH THAT WARP-HOLE LEADS.

WHATEVER ELSE YOU MAY BE, YOU ARE AN ENEMY OF MY ENEMY, MAN OF EARTH.

MIGHT I PROPOSE WE POOL OUR RE-SOURCES IN ORDER TO SAVE OURSELVES FROM OUR MUTUAL PREDICAMENT?

YES, AND EXACT JUSTICE UPON THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR DISHONORABLE TREATMENT!

EARTH.

SO COME ON, SHORTSTUFF, TELL ME WHAT IT IS YOU AND YOUR GIANT BROTHER WANT!

PLEASE?

I THINK YOU'RE RELATED TO THAT FOOT-TALL ANTI-BODY I SAW IN THAT OTHER UNIVERSE...*

...BUT HE WAS A NICE LITTLE IMP THAT HELPED OUT A NICE GUY!

HOW DID YOU GUYS GET HERE? AND WHAT'S GOING TO GET YOU TO STOP RUNNING AMOK?

ALL OF YOU-- BACK! MOVE IT! BEHIND THE LINE!

POLICE

WHO THE HECK IS THAT BLOND GUY IN THE CAPE? THOR?

YOU'RE NOT BEING COOPERATIVE.

AND YOU'RE NOT A TENTH THE MENACE THE GIANT IS.

LET'S SEE IF I CAN GET YOU OUT OF HARM'S WAY!

NNNNGHH!

NNNGH!

NOT SURE HOW STRONG THE STARBRAND MAKES ME-- HIGH TIME I LEARNED!

ONE...

TWO...

THREE--

*ISSUE #31. -- BACK ISSUE CRAZY MIKE

--LIFT!

I'M DOING IT! HE'S OFF THE GROUND!

MAN, WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO HAVE MY QUANTUM-BANDS BACK. I'M NOT GOOD AT USING BRUTE FORCE!

IF I CAN MANAGE, I'LL TOW THIS THING THROUGH THE STRATOSPHERE AND DUMP IT IN DEEP SPACE!

WHOIE! WILL YA LOOK AT THAT?

WHERE'S HE TAKING THE THING?

SMURCH!

OH, NO--!

IT'S-- FALLING! PEOPLE WILL BE CRUSHED!

WHAT CAN I DO?!!

THE STARBRAND-- I'VE TAPPED IT AS PURE FORCE ONCE BEFORE-- BUT I'VE GOT NEXT TO NO CONTROL OVER IT!

NO CHOICE BUT TO USE IT, AND HOPE THAT I DON'T EXPEL TOO MUCH!

HERE GOES...!

WHOOSH
BURGE

OH, NO!
I USED THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF FORCE ALL RIGHT--
-- THE RIGHT AMOUNT TO BLAST THE GIANT INTO A HUNDRED FLYING SIX-FOOT CLONES OF ITSELF!
THIS STARBRAND BUSINESS IS DEFINITELY NOT GOING WELL FOR ME!

SOMEWHERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MILKY WAY, THERE IS A SPHERICAL STARSHIP, ITS ORIGIN YET UNIDENTIFIED.

IT CONTAINS A FLYING SHUTTLE BUS BUILT BY PEOPLE CALLED THE SCADAMITES, A RACE, WHO IN RECENT WEEKS, WAS ALL BUT EXTERMINATED.

INSIDE THIS SHUTTLE BUS ARE TWO DENIZENS OF EARTH WHO HAVE HAD THE MISFORTUNE OF BEING SHANGHAIED TO SCADAM IN RECENT WEEKS.

THEIR NAMES: KAYLA BALLANTINE, WHO, LIKE QUASAR, POSSESSES A PORTION OF THE STARBRAND, AND HER COMPANION HOLLY STECKLEY...

WHERE ARE WE, HOLLY? WHAT HAPPENED? ARE WE BETTER OFF THAN WE WERE TRAPPED ON SCADAM... OR HAVE WE JUMPED FROM THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE?

CALL ME NUTS, BUT I'M GLAD TO BE ANYWHERE BUT THAT GODFORSAKEN PLANET!

YOU'RE NUTS! WE'VE BEEN CAPTURED BY ALIENS! WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY WANT US FOR? MAYBE TO EAT US!

WHOOOOOOOO

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! ALL THIS TECHNOLOGY JUST TO CATCH A FEW MORSELS OF FOOOOO--

OHHHH!

S-STAY BACK!

IT HAS TAKEN A MONTH TO WHITTLE THE NINE HUNDRED MILLION MILE JOURNEY DOWN TO A MERE FIVE MILLION MILES...

...BUT THESE TWO SINGULAR FIGURES HAVE PURSUED THEIR COMMON GOAL RELENTLESSLY, CHANNELLING ALL OF THE ENERGIES AT THEIR COMMAND INTO NEAR-WARP SPEED PROPULSION...

AT LONG LAST THE DISC OF THE EARTH LOOMS LARGE BEFORE THEM.

SERGEI-- AWAKEN! WE ARE INSIDE THE ORBIT OF EARTH'S MOON!

I HAVE BEEN AWAKE SINCE WE PASSED MARS, COMRADE.

NOW I AM WITHIN RANGE TO BEGIN SCANNING FOR OUR ENEMY'S BRAIN PATTERNS.

IF QUASAR IS ANYWHERE WITHIN THE EARTH'S BIOSPHERE, I SHALL PINPOINT HIM.

OUR ALLIANCE HAS PROVEN MOST SATISFACTORY.

WHEN WE FIND HIM WE WILL ATTACK IN UNISON, IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST HIS DISPATCHING US AS HE HAD DONE BEFORE.

HE CANNOT TELEPORT US UNLESS HE TOUCHES US. WE MUST AVOID HIS GRASP.

WHEN I AM THROUGH WITH HIM, HE WILL LACK THE STRENGTH TO GRASP A CRUTCH!

OBLIVIOUS, BELOW...

MAN, I WISH I HAD MY QUANTUM-BANDS! I'D BUBBLE THEM ALL UP IN Q-FORCE AND BE DONE WITH IT!

NOT SO CLOSE, GUYS!

OH, GREAT. THE BIG HAND BROKE UP INTO FOUR MORE OF THEM RIGHT AFTER IMPACT.

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? THINK!

I START BLASTING THEM--THEY MIGHT BLOW APART INTO STILL MORE DARK CLONES!

SO WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO--LET THEM MAKE ME THE SQUISHY CENTER OF THEIR FLYING MONKEY PILE?

I WOULD... IF I COULD LURE ALL OF THEM INTO ONE PLACE AGAIN--

--BUT I SEE A BUNCH OF THEM RAMPAGING BELOW WHO DON'T SEEM TO SHARE THIS CREW'S ENTHUSIASM FOR STOMPING ME!

=WHEW.= IF THERE'S ANY WAY THIS SITUATION COULD BE WORSE--

"-- I SURE AS HECK CAN'T SEE *HOW!*"

OUR *QUARRY* IS DIRECTLY BELOW, NEUTRON!

OUR MOMENT OF VENGEANCE IS *IMMINENT!*

LET US STRIKE *SWIFTLY* AND *SAVAGELY!*

AGREED!

POLICE

SERGEI? I FAIL TO *SEE* HIM.

I... I *DO NOT* EITHER.

THESE *EBONY BEINGS* FLYING ABOUT... RESEMBLE *ME* MORE THAN THEY DO QUASAR. THEY ARE *DENIZENS* OF YOUR WORLD?

NO. I'VE NEVER *SEEN* THEM BEFORE.

BACK, YOU MINDLESS MULTITUDE--

-- I HAVE NO PATIENCE FOR ANYTHING BUT *VENGEANCE!*

YOU WERE ABLE TO DISTINGUISH A SINGLE BRAIN PATTERN FROM AMONG THE UNTOLD MANY THAT MAKE UP YOUR WORLD'S POPULACE--

--BUT NOW THAT WE'RE NEXT TO IT, YOU CANNOT DETERMINE--

I'VE LOCATED HIM! HE IS UP THERE--

--IN THAT FALLING MASS OF EBONY BEINGS!

SPLOOM

YES, YOU ARE RIGHT. IT IS HIM!

IS... HE DEAD?

BRAIN ACTIVITY CONTINUES.

nnnnnnn...

I HAD HOPED HE WOULD PUT UP SOME SORT OF *STRUGGLE* AS WE METED OUT OUR RETRIBUTION.

IT DOES NOT *MATTER* TO ME.

LET US *COMMENCE!*

MEANWHILE, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MILKY WAY, QUASAR'S ONE-TIME COMPANION, KISMET, LEAVES ORBIT...

I AM UNABLE TO FOLLOW IT INTO *WARP* SPACE.

THE *UNKNOWN POWER* * WHICH I SENSED ON THIS ALIEN WORLD HAS *VANISHED* ABOARD AN UNIDENTIFIED CRAFT.

I MAY *NEVER KNOW* WHAT REPULSED THE ALIEN INVADERS THAT DEVASTATED THE WORLD BELOW!

* THAT WOULD BE KAYLA WITH THE STARBRAND. -- MIKELA

TIME TO *QUIT* THIS FRUSTRATING STAR SYSTEM AND *RETURN* TO--

--THERE IS THE *CATHEDRAL SHIP* THAT BROUGHT ME HERE!

MY COMPANION *MAKKARI* MAY STILL BE ABOARD!

I MUST--

GONE.

LOST TO ME IN WARP SPACE.

THIS IS NOT FUNNY.

EARTH.

ANY LAST WORDS BEFORE I STRIKE YOU AGAIN?

PLEASE...GUYS... I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS RIGHT NOW. I'VE GOT TO STOP ALL THESE GREMLINS!

YOU WISH FOR US TO WAIT OUR TURN TO BATTLE YOU, IS THAT IT?

WELL, YEAH... OR YOU COULD EVEN HELP ME--NNGGGH!

HA!

NNGAH!

NNNGH!

OWWW!

ALL RIGHT. THAT'S IT! I'M AS PROUD AS THE NEXT SUPER HERO--

--BUT IT'S TIME TO CALL IN REINFORCEMENTS!

HEY, PEGGY? THIS IS QUASAR. I NEED--

AVEN

PRIORI

AUTHOR

Ray

VSSSH

WE SHALL HAVE NONE OF THAT!

YOU-- IDIOT! NOW YOU'RE MAKING ME MAD!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF MADNESS? I WAS LEFT TO DIE IN A FEATURELESS VOID!

A LESSER MIND WOULD HAVE GONE MAD!

KNOW MY PAIN, QUASAR!

YOU... STILL STAND?!

I'M... A LOT TOUGHER THAN YOU REMEMBER.

I HADN'T INTENDED TO LET YOU DIE IN THE QUANTUM ZONE, SERGEI--

--I FIGURED A GENIUS LIKE YOU WOULD FIND A WAY OUT--

--BUT RIGHT NOW, I'D GIVE MY LEFT NOSTRIL TO STICK YOU BACK THERE!

NYET!

LET GO OF ME!

NEUTRON-- I CANNOT BREAK HIS GRIP!

ASSIST ME!

HE'S TOWING ME OUTSIDE THE ATMOSPHERE SO HE CAN QUANTUM JUMP ONCE MORE!

I ONLY WISH!

I'M COMING, SERGEI!

UNHAND ME, QUASAR!

NOT A CHANCE.

YOU KNOW WHAT'S IRONIC ABOUT ALL THIS, PREG? IT'S THAT OUR ANIMOSITY IS ALL BASED UPON A MIS-UNDERSTANDING!

YOU LIE!

NO, I DON'T. THE FIRST TIME WE FOUGHT, YOU BELIEVED ME TO BE A TOOL OF A COSMIC MENACE, THANKS TO SOME CHOICE MIS-INFORMATION YOU WERE FED!*

GOT TO KEEP THE PRESENCE DISTRACTED TILL I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH HIM!

JUST HAD AN IDEA!

BRAAK

FOR MY PART, I MISTOOK YOU FOR THE COSMIC ASSASSIN WHO GAVE YOU THAT MISINFORMATION.

SO THIS FIGHT--LIKE OUR LAST ONE--IS ALL ONE BIG MISTAKE!

LOOKING FOR YOUR BUDDY?

*WERE YOU TO CONSULT ISSUES #19-20 AND #24, YOU'D SEE QUASAR'S NOT JUST HANDING HIM A LINE. --MINTCOPYM.

BOOOOM

WHOAAAA--! DIDN'T EXPECT THAT!

NEUT PUNCHED A HOLE IN HIS ARMOR, CAUSING A VIOLENT ENERGY RELEASE!

PRES HAS BEEN BLOWN RIGHT INTO ME!

NNNH!

HIT A PILE OF ANTIBODIES WHO FOLLOWED US UP HERE, TOO!

CAN'T SEEM TO STANCH THE FLOW OF ENERGY FROM HIS CHEST! WE'RE HURTLING DOWNWARD!

TOO MUCH MOMENTUM BUILT UP-- CAN'T STOP-- ALL I CAN DO TO TRY TO AVOID THOSE POWER LINES--!

THOOMP

THIS...

... REALLY...

...STINKS!

WE ARE THE SHOCK TROOP!

HUH? WHO THE--?

GOOD GRIEF.

CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!

QUORUM

MIKE ROCKWITZ: EDITOR BARRY DUTTER: ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Stellargrams,

QUASAR #39 shows what a crossover should be-- the plot of the main storyline in INFINITY WAR is effectively advanced without compromising the storyline in Quasar's own book. Perhaps QUASAR found itself in an enviable position due to the fact that Quasar was not about to face a major villain only to be interrupted by INFINITY WAR, but I chalk this up to good storytelling more than coincidence. Mark was not the only writer who knew this crossover was coming up, yet he was one of the few to adequately prepare for it. I'm glad to see Quasar's confidence increasing. The Quasar we knew from Project: Pegasus might have volunteered to use the Nullifier out of a perverted sense of duty assuming it was a suicide mission. Now we see a genuine hero who can look Thanos in the eye and volunteer because he feels he's the best man for the job. It was also nice to see Quasar making use of the resources the quantum bands afford him (access to the library) without having to rely on Eon any more. Through all of this he has remained likeable instead of turning into the pompous ass Wonder Man became when he first became surer of his powers and status in AVENGERS WEST.

I do have a question, however. Epoch tells Quasar that no one who has ever used the Nullifier has survived yet I seem to recall that Galactus used it against Korvac, as well as a reference in FANTASTIC FOUR that Galactus was messing with chronology by using it. There are three possibilities here: a) The library at Rus is outdated or incomplete, b) my memory is flawed and Galactus used the Nullifier in the future or an alternate past, or c) Epoch is lying. Whatever the case, congratulations on another great issue.

Daniel Kelly
R.R. #2 Spencerville
Ontario, Canada KOE IXO

Any of you Nullifier-philes have a thought?

Hey Quasaroonians,

Allow me to say congratulations on producing QUASAR. In my opinion, it is one of the best comics out right now from Marvel. It has just the right blend of comedy as well as hard-hitting drama. Or maybe I'm just reading things into it.

I notice that you've been teasing us with little one- or two-page adventures about what's happening to Quas's girlfriend, Kayla. Now us die-hard New U fans can easily tell you what's going on. *Kayla's got the Starbrand! That means the Starbrand is in the Marvel Universe! Oh frabjous day! Callooh! Callay! I chortle in my joy!* I think I figured out how she got it, too. On the second last page of issue #31, Quasar has his arm around Kayla. He then claims the Starbrand burnt itself out in transit. Kayla later complains of a strange tingling sensation on the back of her neck. It's obvious. Quasar inadvertently gave her the Starbrand when he hugged her. Does this mean the New Universe is due for a comeback?

Anyway, till quantum-bands go out of style, make mine Marvel!

David Maddox
706 Bamboo Terrace
San Rafael, CA 94903

Cosmic jewelry will always be fashionable, David, so yours is safely made.

Dear QUASAR,

I was not a very big fan of QUASAR when it first came out. In fact I resented the idea of him trying to fill the shoes of the mighty Captain Marvel. I refused to enjoy this brilliantly written book. I wanted it to fail. It looked as if my wish would become reality, until along came "Cosmos in Collision." I found each and every issue simply outstanding. I was terribly pleased to see Captain Marvel (in spirit) in the book and Infinity and Oblivion were way cool. Quasar had finally seemed to come of age with the addition of Her. She has a lot of potential and makes a great member of the cast. Greg Capullo's vision of Quasar was the best that ever graced the pages of this mag. It will be sorely missed. However, Steve Lightle is an excellent replacement. Now I find myself anticipating every issue. To the Q-Crew, I salute you for making the best Proetector of the Universe.

Scott Linting
6347 Plainview
Detroit, MI 48228

Gee, thanks for the testimonial, Scott. And though Steve Lightle's stay on this book wasn't as long as we hoped, we think we've got an incredible replacement in the person of Andy Smith! (And this issue's pinch-hitting by Grant Miehm was nothing to sneeze at either!)

And now, before we start thinking that everybody who writes us loves us...

Dear Marvel,

Slam letter.

Mark Gruenwald. Today a name synonymous with hokey, fake, phony, contrived. A man whose idea of a good story is a gimmick. Beyond that, there's corny dialogue, ridiculous situations, out-of-character guest stars, and a planet full of misfit 70s one-shot characters.

This is not to say that Mark can't do good things. There was the SQUADRON SUPREME graphic novel, the HAWKEYE limited series, the "Cap fired" storyline, even that Maelstrom deal (save for the unnecessary Ghost Rider appearance). But lately...

That is until now. Heck, this may be the best INFINITY WAR story of the bunch. That is to say the winner of the August 21 Villain of the Week Award is Deathurge in "To Be or Not To Be" (hokey title) in QUASAR #39. Honest to gosh, I think Mark put some thought into this. Deathurge read like a conceptual entity: one-trackedness, slight ego problem. None of the cornball, out-of-character puns even the most "menacing" of Gruenwald's characters come up with of late. He forced Quasar to think about his own mortality as well as his own morality (one of my chief concerns of Villain of the Week: Did the villain help the hero see himself?) He did awesome tricks, decapitating himself (another big decider: coolness factor). I'd almost swear Starlin scripted this one. (No, it can't be. No crucifixions.) Deathurge aside, even Her was well-written. Likeable, even. That's something I never thought about Her. Overall, I found the issue flawless. Congratulations, Mark. I knew you had another one in you. Actually, though, Epoch was still a bit hokey.

Patrick C. Duke
P.O. Box 206
Raffin, NC 27326

Thanks for sharing, Patrick. We're making Gruenwald work double time trying to get his name synonymous with adjectives other than the ones you name. Incidentally, the fact that the Antibodies were rampaging in North Carolina this issue had nothing to do with you.

Dear Quasar Posse,

Re: QUASAR #39.

Thanks for yet another excellent issue of QUASAR. This is definitely the most overlooked and underrated comic within the ranks of Marvel. The issue was, by far, the best of the INFINITY WAR crossovers, mainly because of its great tie to the current cosmic struggle without lowering itself to include a mindless battle between our hero and an evil doppelganger.

This is not the only refreshing surprise given to us by Mr. Gruenwald. The battle between Quasar and Deathurge was not an over-used "super-villain wants to kill super hero" fight. Not one of black and white (no pun intended) but shades of grey, where good and evil have no bearing. I am also enjoying the intriguing Kayla Ballantine developments, and Her and Makkari's journey aboard the Mourning Star, and how these two sub-plots were tied together this issue. The appearance of Kruggar (the new sorcerer supreme in the GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY comic?) was a delightful treat.

I am sad to see Greg Capullo leave since he's my most favorite penciler. Mr. Candelario also deserves praise for his superb inks.

QUASAR is honestly becoming a greater comic with each and every issue. I hope you guys can keep up the pace. It will take this book to the stars and back.

Chris Rafferty
621 Lombardy Way
Redwood, CA 94062

That would be nice, assuming our circulation department knows how to track interstellar sales! Thanks for writing, Chris!